

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 0566

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, CY,
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU

REF: NICOSIA 0565

1. PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU, INVESTED FEB 28 FOR A FIVE-YEAR TERM, ASKED ME TO CALL MARCH 2. FONMIN CHRISTOPHIDES WAS PRESENT. I WAS PRECEDED BY YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR, WHICH I TAKE IT WAS TO UNDERSCORE GOC NONALIGNMENT. I WOULD EXPECT SOVIET AMBASSADOR WAS CLOSE ON MY HEELS.

2. IN HANDING ME MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT CARTER (REFTEL), KYPRIANOU ADDED FOLLOWING ORAL COMMENTS:

A. POINTS CONTAINED IN KYPRIANOU'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER ARE ALL RELATED TO IMPROVING THE REPUTATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN CYPRUS. KYPRIANOU SAID THIS IS IMPORTANT TO HIM FOR REASONS OF INTERNAL POLITICS. (HE IS IMPLYING THAT HE WISHES TO REDUCE DEPENDENCE ON HIS COMMUNIST AND RADICAL SOCIALIST SUPPORTERS.)

B. CYPRUS WANTS TO IMPROVE ITS RELATIONS WITH US. BY AND LARGE THE RELATIONSHIP IS SATISFACTORY NOW, BUT IT NEEDS TO BE CONSOLIDATED.

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C. CYPRUS IS, AND WILL REMAIN NONALIGNED, BUT ITS MORAL VALUES ARE WESTERN. FONMIN ADDED THAT CYPRUS FOLLOWS A POLICY OF NONALIGNMENT BUT WITH A TILT.

D. KYPRIANOU COULD MEET PRESIDENT CARTER ANY PLACE AND ANY TIME AT THE PRESIDENT'S CONVENIENCE. KYPRIANOU

COULD GO TO WASHINGTON OR COULD TRAVEL TO EUROPE IF THE PRESIDENT WERE THERE. HE FEELS A SECOND MEETING IS VERY MUCH TO BE DESIRED. MEETING NEED NOT BE AT PRESIDENT CARTER'S INVITATION. THERE COULD BE JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT THAT "THE TWO PRESIDENTS HAD AGREED TO MEET."

3. AFTER FORMAL PRESENTATION OF LETTER AND ACCOMPANYING ORAL REMARKS BY KYPRIANOU, CONVERSATION TURNED TO PROSPECTS FOR NEGOTIATION. I MADE THE USUAL PITCH: WE ARE URGING THAT TURKISH PROPOSALS BE CREDIBLE AND, ON TERRITORY, THAT THEY SIGNAL THE NEGOTIABILITY OF VAROSHA. GOT AND DENKTASH APPARENTLY UNDERSTAND. IN LIKE MANNER, WE URGE GREEK CYPRIOTS TO RESPOND CONSTRUCTIVELY WHEN PROPOSALS ARE PRESENTED. KYPRIANOU WAS CAREFULLY NONCOMMITTAL.

4. I ALSO TOOK THIS OPPORTUNITY TO URGE, AS WE HAVE WITH OTHR GOC LEADERS, THAT US-GOC RELATIONS BE PUT INTO A BETTER BALANCE THROUGH AVOIDANCE OF INTERMPERATE, OPPORTUNISTIC CRITICISM AND APPROPRIATE PUBLIC RECONGITION OF US ASSISTANCE. ON THE FIRST POINT, KYPRIANOU REPLIED THAT AS A TINY STATE CYPRUS HAS TO SPEAK LOUDLY. US IS TOO BIG TO BE HURT BY THIS. I ACKNOWLEDGED THAT US IS NOT HURT, BUT POINTED OUT THAT GOC LIMITS ITS OWN FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT BY CASTING US IN DEVIL'S IMAGE. ON THE SECOND POINT, KYPRIANOU SAID CONFIDENTIAL

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HE HAD ACKNOWLEDGED US ASSISTANCE IN HIS INAUGURAL ADDRESS. I POINTED OUT THAT IN DOING SO HE HAD EQUATED US AND USSR ASSISTANCE AND THEN GONE ON TO SAY GREECE HAS BEEN THE MOST GENEROUS FOREIGN AID DONOR, WHICH IS NOT THE CASE.

5. FINALLY, WE TURNED TO RELATIONS WITH EGYPT. I GAVE MY PERSONAL VIEW THAT, WHILE THE ATMOSPHERE IS SOMEWHAT BETTER, I DOUBTED SADAT WOULD RESUME RELAYIONS UNLESS TERRORISTS WERE EXECUTED OR TURNED OVER TO EGYPT. THE FORMER SEEMED THE MORE DIGNIFIED COURSE. POSSIBILITY OR EVEN LIKELIHOOD OF PALESTINIAN RETALIATION COULD NOT BE DISCOUNTED, BUT A NEW POLICY OF FIRMNESS WOULD HELP GOC IN THE LONG RUN.
CRAWFORD

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